

U.S. Serial No. 09/931,960
Attorney Docket No. 42390P10675

REMARKS

The applicant has carefully considered the Office action dated March 14, 2005 and the reference it cites. By way of this Response, claims 1, 3, 7-10, 11, 13, 17-20, 21, 23, 25, 26, and 28-30 have been amended, and claim 27 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-26, and 28-30 are pending at issue, with claims 1, 11, and 21 being independent. As explained below, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Office action dated March 14, 2005, claims 1-30 were rejected as unpatentable over Thompson et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0214572). The applicant respectfully traverses each of the rejections.

The applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 21 are patentable over the art cited in the Office action. Each of the independent claims recites, *inter alia*, an apparatus, a method, or a system that controls transmission at an access point of a first beacon signal comprising information associated with a first wired communication network and a second beacon signal comprising information associated with a second wired communication network.

Although Thompson et al. generally disclose an access point (AP) including software to implement a plurality of virtual APs, Thompson et al. fail to teach or suggest controlling transmission at an access point of a first beacon signal comprising information associated with a first wired communication network and a second beacon signal comprising information associated with a second wired communication network. The AP disclosed in Thompson et al. does not transmit multiple beacon signals with one beacon signal for each wired communication network accessible via the AP. Instead, Thompson et al. disclose a system including an AP that transmits a single beacon signal including a list of possible extended service set IDs (ESSIDs) corresponding to all of the wireless service providers

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supported by the AP. A portable computing device (PCD) (e.g., a subscriber) receives this single beacon signal from the AP and selects an ESSID from the list of possible ESSIDs. *See, e.g., Thompson et al., paras. [0158] and [0159], and FIG. 7.*

The beacon signal of Thompson et al. is fundamentally different than the claimed beacon signals. Therefore, Thompson et al. do not teach or suggest such an apparatus, a method, or a system. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 11 and 21, and all claims dependent thereon, are allowable.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, the examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office action, the examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below to discuss this matter.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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